

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 ACDA-12 IO-14 SSM-05 /099 W
-----078777 071630Z /45

R 070834Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5883
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 7487

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SOPN, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN MEDIA LAUDS RESULTS OF TRIPOLI CONFERENCE

1. DEC. 6 DAMASCUS MEDIA LED WITH REPORTS OF ASSAD'S RETURN FROM TRIPOLI AND PRINTED VERBATIM THE CONFERENCE'S FINAL COMMUNIQUE. PICTURES OF ASSAD WITH FELLOW ARAB LEADERS OTHER THAN IRAQIS SPLASHED ON ALL FRONT PAGES AND ON INSIDE PAGES AS WELL. THEIR FRONT PAGE STORIES REPORT EGYPT'S EXPULSION FROM THE CONFEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS. BAATH CARRIES SMALL BOX REPORTING EGYPT'S SEVERENCE OF DIPLOMAT RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND OTHER STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE. PRESS ALSO INDIRECTLY ATTACKED IRAQ BY CARRYING ON FRONT PAGES STATEMENTS BY PFLP-GC LEADER AHMAD JIBRIL QUESTIONING IRAQ'S MOTIVES IN PULLING OUT OF THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE. PRESS, HOWEVER, IS CIRCUMSPECT ABOUT PREDICTING TANGIBLE
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RESULTS EMANATING FROM CONFERENCE AND GENERALLY AVOIDS TERMS THAT EVEN HINT OF A REJECTIONIST STAND. INDICATIVE OF TERMINOLOGY IS BAATH HEADLINE: "FORMATION OF A NATIONAL FRONT FOR OPPOSITION AND RESISTANCE (SAMUD)."

2. LEAD EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH PROTRAYS SYRIA "IN THE VANGUARD IN DEFENDING THE ARAB CAUSE" AND BOASTS THAT THE

"UNIFIED FRONT" SET UP BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE PLO AND NOW WON THE BACKING OF THE TRIPOLI SUMMIT STATES. OTHER ARAB STATES ARE CALLED UPON TO COME ON BOARD AND HOPE IS EXPRESSED THAT TRIPOLI RESOLUTIONS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED. THAWAR EDITORIAL IN SIMILAR VEIN ALSO TAKES IMPLIED SWIPE AT IRAQ IN CLAIMING THAT TRIPOLI SUMMIT SORTED OUT THE STANDS OF VARIOUS ARAB PARTIES AND SHOWED "WHO IS FOR SUBMISSION EVEN IF CONCEALED BEHIND VERBAL REJECTION," AND WHO IS FOR PEACE WHICH SAFEGARDS ARAB RIGHTS AND INSURES LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORY." US DOES NOT EXCAPE EITHER AND IS CHARGED IN SAME EDITORIAL WITH LEADING THE FORCES HOSTILE TO THE ARAB NATION. TRIPOLI CONFERENCE CHARACTERIZED AS FIRST STEP IN CONFRONTING "CAPITULATION."

3. COMMENT: BY AND LARGE SYRIAN MEDIA HAS CONTENTED ITSELF WITH EXPRESSING SATISFACTION AT THE CONFERENCE'S RESULTS. HIGHLIGHTING SYRIA'S CENTRAL ROLE IN CONFRONTING "CAPITULATIONIST POLICIES," AND CALLING UPON OTHER ARAB STATES TO RALLY BEHIND THE NEW FRONT. ALL EDITORIALS AND ANALYSES ARE DEVOID OF ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT HOW THE TRIPOLI RESOLUTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE TRANSLATED INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION AND RESTRICT THEMSELVES TO EXPRESSING HOPE THAT THEY WILL BE ACTED UPON.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DAMASC07487
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770454-1448
Format: TEL
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771284/aaaactns.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e206160a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 333030
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIAN MEDIA LAUDS RESULTS OF TRIPOLI CONFERENCE
TAGS: SOPN, SY, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e206160a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009